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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/687,545	10/15/2003	Christopher H. Porter	355492-4200	7701

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EXAMINER

JONES, DAMERON LEVEST

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1618

DATE MAILED: 09/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/687,545	Applicant(s) PORTER ET AL.	
	Examiner D. L. Jones	Art Unit 1618	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. <u>9/15/05</u> . |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

WITHDRAW THE PREVIOUS OFFICE ACTION

1. The previous office action mailed 8/29/05 is WITHDRAWN in view of the new office action set forth below.

Note: Claims 1-24 are pending.

RESTRICTION INTO GROUPS

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-18, drawn to compositions and kits comprising a prepolymeric material; exogenous trigger, and rheological modifier wherein the prepolymeric material is an acrylate, classified in class 424, subclass 78.31.
 - II. Claims 1-18, drawn to compositions and kits comprising a prepolymeric material; exogenous trigger, and rheological modifier wherein the prepolymeric material is a methacrylate, classified in class 424, subclass 78.31.
 - III. Claims 1-18, drawn to compositions and kits comprising a prepolymeric material; exogenous trigger, and rheological modifier wherein the prepolymeric material is an acrylamide, classified in class 424, subclass 78.31.
 - IV. Claims 1-18, drawn to compositions and kits comprising a prepolymeric material; exogenous trigger, and rheological modifier wherein the prepolymeric material is a methacrylamide, classified in class 424, subclass 78.31.

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- V. Claims 1-18, drawn to compositions and kits comprising a prepolymeric material; exogenous trigger, and rheological modifier wherein the prepolymeric material is a styrene, classified in class 424, subclass 78.31.
- VI. Claims 1-18, drawn to compositions and kits comprising a prepolymeric material; exogenous trigger, and rheological modifier wherein the prepolymeric material is a vinyl acetate, classified in class 424, subclass 78.31.
- VII. Claims 1-18, drawn to compositions and kits comprising a prepolymeric material; exogenous trigger, and rheological modifier wherein the prepolymeric material is an acrylonitrile, classified in class 424, subclass 78.31.
- VIII. Claims 1-18, drawn to compositions and kits comprising a prepolymeric material; exogenous trigger, and rheological modifier wherein the prepolymeric material is not one of Groups I-VII above, classified in class 424, subclass 78.31.
- IX. Claims 1-18 and 19, drawn to a method of site specific delivery of a composition as set forth in claim 19 comprising a prepolymeric material; exogenous trigger, and rheological modifier, classified in class 424, subclass 9.1.
- X. Claims 1-18 and 20, drawn to a method site specific vascular embolization via a catheter as set forth in claim 20 comprising a prepolymeric material;

exogenous trigger, and rheological modifier, classified in class 424, subclass 78.31.

- XI. Claims 1-18 and 21, drawn to a method of bulking tissue in a mammal as in claim 21 comprising a prepolymeric material; exogenous trigger, and rheological modifier, classified in class 424, subclass 78.31.
- XII. Claims 1-18 and 23, drawn to a method of delivering a composition comprising a medicament as set forth in claim 23 comprising a prepolymeric material; exogenous trigger, and rheological modifier, classified in class 424, subclass 78.31.

Note: Claims appearing in more than one group will only be examined to the extent that they read on the elected invention.

3. Groups (I and IX-XII), (II and IX-XII), (III and IX-XII), (IV and IX-XII), (V and IX-XII), (VI and IX-XII), (VII and IX-XII), and (VIII and IX-XII) are related as product and process and use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using the product (MPEP 806.05(h)). In the instant case, the products of Groups I-VIII may be used in one of the methods of Groups IX-XIII above. Thus, each of the inventions is directed to products having distinct characteristics. Hence, a separate search for each invention is necessary since

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the limitations necessary for each group is different even though the inventions classify in the same area.

4. The inventions are distinct from each other for the reasons set forth above.

Hence, since these inventions are distinct and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

REJOINDER PARAGRAPH

5. The Examiner has required restriction between product and process claims.

Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04. **Process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product** will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103, and 112. Until an elected product claim is

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found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowed product claim will not be rejoined. See "Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of In re Ochiai, In re Brouwer and 35 U.S.C. § 103(b)," 1184 O.G. 86 (March 26, 1996). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, Applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution either to maintain dependency on the product claims or to otherwise include the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.** Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

ELECTION OF SPECIES

6. Claims 1-24 generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising a prepolymeric material, exogenous trigger, and rheological modifier.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for search purposes from within the elected group above, even though this requirement is traversed.

Note: The Examiner respectfully requests that the Applicant identify each of the following, if appropriate for the elected group above: a specific prepolymeric material, a

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specific exogenous trigger, a rheological modifier, contrast agent, thickening agent, plasticizers, radioactive agent, surfactants, medicament, delivery device, and tissue site.

7. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

8. Due to the complexity of the restriction requirement, a telephone call was not made to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement.


9. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to D. L. Jones whose telephone number is (571) 272-0617. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 6:45 a.m. - 3:15 p.m..

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman Page can be reached on (571) 272-0602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



D. L. Jones
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1618

September 19, 2005